

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Claims 1-2 (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The coated surface crosslinked superabsorbent polymer composition of claim 29 wherein the coating is selected from the group consisting of calcium chloride, sodium chloride, potassium chloride, calcium nitrate, magnesium chloride, aluminum sulfate, aluminum chloride, and ferric chloride.

4. (Previously Presented) The coated surface crosslinked superabsorbent polymer composition of claim 29 having a water absorption property of absorbing about 3 grams or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds according to the Free Water Absorption 15 second ( $FWA_{15\text{sec}}$ ) Test.

5. (Previously Presented) The coated surface crosslinked superabsorbent polymer composition of claim 29 having a water absorption property of absorbing about 2 grams or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds according to the Free Water Absorption 15 second ( $FWA_{15\text{sec}}$ ) Test.

6. (Previously Presented) The coated surface crosslinked superabsorbent polymer composition of claim 29 having a water absorption property of absorbing about 1 gram or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds according to the Free Water Absorption 15 second ( $FWA_{15\text{sec}}$ ) Test.

Claim 7 (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The coated surface crosslinked superabsorbent polymer composition of claim 29 having a centrifuge retention capacity of retaining 28 grams or more of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer and having an absorbency under load at 0.9 psi of retaining more than 13 grams of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer.

9. (Previously Presented) The coated surface crosslinked superabsorbent polymer composition of claim 29 having a water absorption property of absorbing about 3 grams or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds according to the Free Water Absorption 15 second ( $FWA_{15\text{sec}}$ ) Test, a centrifuge retention capacity of retaining 25 grams or more of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer and having an absorbency under load at 0.9 psi of retaining more than 18 grams of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer.

10. (Previously Presented) A coated superabsorbent polymer particulate comprising

- a) a superabsorbent polymer particulate comprising from about 55 to about 99.9 wt.% of polymerizable unsaturated acid group containing monomers; and

from about 0.001 to about 5.0 wt.% of internal crosslinking agent based on the polymerizable unsaturated acid group containing monomer; wherein the composition has a degree of neutralization of more than 25 mole %; and

b) from about 0.5 to about 20 wt.% of a coating containing salt selected from a group consisting of monovalent salts, divalent salts, trivalent salts and higher salts on the superabsorbent polymer particulate surface;

wherein the coated superabsorbent polymer particulate has a water absorption property of absorbing about 3.6 grams or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds according to the Free Water Absorption 15 second (FWA<sub>15sec</sub>) Test, and wherein when the coating of (b) is washed off the superabsorbent polymer particulate of (a), the resulting superabsorbent polymer particulate has a water absorption property of absorbing about 5.7 grams or more of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds according to the Free Water Absorption 15 second (FWA<sub>15sec</sub>) Test.

Claims 11-13 (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The coated superabsorbent polymer particulate of claim 10 having a water absorption property of absorbing about 2 grams or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds according to the Free Water Absorption 15 second (FWA<sub>15sec</sub>) Test.

15. (Previously Presented) The coated superabsorbent polymer particulate of claim 10 having a water absorption property of absorbing about 1 gram or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds according to the Free Water Absorption 15 second (FWA<sub>15sec</sub>) Test.

Claim 16 (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The coated superabsorbent polymer particulate of claim 10 having a water absorption property of absorbing about 3 grams or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds according to the Free Water Absorption 15 second ( $\text{FWA}_{15\text{sec}}$ ) Test, a centrifuge retention capacity of retaining 28 grams or more of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer and having an absorbency under load at 0.9 psi of retaining more than 13 grams of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer.

18. (Previously Presented) The coated superabsorbent polymer particulate of claim 10 having a water absorption property of absorbing about 2 grams or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds according to the Free Water Absorption 15 second ( $\text{FWA}_{15\text{sec}}$ ) Test, a centrifuge retention capacity of retaining 25 grams or more of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer and having an absorbency under load at 0.9 psi of retaining more than 18 grams of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer.

19. (Previously Presented) The coated superabsorbent polymer particulate of claim 10 having a delayed free water absorption property of absorbing about 1 gram or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds according to the Free Water Absorption 15 second ( $\text{FWA}_{15\text{sec}}$ ) Test, a centrifuge retention capacity of retaining 28 grams or more of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer and having an absorbency under

load at 0.9 psi of retaining more than 16 grams of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer.

Claims 20-28 (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) A coated surface crosslinked superabsorbent polymer composition comprising a superabsorbent polymer comprising:

a) from about 55% to about 99.9 % by weight of the superabsorbent polymer of polymerizable unsaturated acid group containing monomer based on the superabsorbent polymer; and

b) from about 0.001% to about 5% by weight of internal crosslinking agent based on the polymerizable unsaturated acid group containing monomer; wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a degree of neutralization of greater than 25%; wherein elements a) and b) are polymerized and prepared into superabsorbent polymer particles; further comprising on the surface of the superabsorbent polymer particles

(c) from about 0.001% to about 5% by weight of surface crosslinking agent based on the dry superabsorbent polymer particulate to form surface crosslinked superabsorbent polymer particles; and

(d) from about 0.5 to about 20 wt.% by weight of a salt coating containing a salt selected from a group consisting of monovalent salts, divalent salts, trivalent salts and higher salts wherein the salt coating is coated onto the surface of the superabsorbent polymer particles;

wherein the coated surface crosslinked superabsorbent polymer particulate has a water absorption property of absorbing about 3.6 grams or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds according to the Free Water Absorption 15 second (FWA<sub>15sec</sub>) Test, and wherein when the salt coating of (d) is washed off the surface crosslinked superabsorbent polymer particulate of step (c) the resulting surface crosslinked superabsorbent polymer particulate has a water absorption property of absorbing about 5.7 grams or more of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds according to the Free Water Absorption 15 second (FWA<sub>15sec</sub>) Test.

Claims 30-31 (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The coated superabsorbent polymer particulate of claim 10 wherein the salt is selected from the group consisting of calcium chloride, sodium chloride, potassium chloride, calcium nitrate, magnesium chloride, aluminum sulfate, aluminum chloride, and ferric chloride.